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A HINDOO INTERIOR.



ARTIZANS engaged in the manufacture of artistic hand-wrought articles are more numerous in India than in any other country in the world, and no other nation can produce such high art wares at such low cost. The great object in modern Indian art work is to produce useful articles for the ornamentation of Western homes, hence there is a wide field for the selection of art furnishings, for there is no limit to this art industry.

In decorating a Hindoo interior, we naturally, in the first place want a carpet, and the woolen pile carpets manufactured by the Government of India and many private factories in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Cashmere and elsewhere, do not cost much more than the European made article, and will last a lifetime. A carpet with forty knots to the inch is most desirable for ordinary use, and those imported from India will favorably compare with those of Persian or Turkish manufacture.

In artistic woodwork, the carved doors, balconies, screens, etc., from Ahmedabad, are most elaborate in design and perfect in execution. In many respects Indian art is the most pleasing for interior decoration, and those examples of art carved work in which Mahomedan is blended with Hindoo art, the results are captivating in the extreme. The handsome Manipur wood furniture is quite unique in style, and there are shown drawing-room tables and center pieces, as well as large and small picture frames in forms so captivating as will quite revolutionize the art of furnishing. In smaller things, such as fans, paper knives, glove boxes, etc., many beautiful examples are shown in sandal wood, which is highly oliferous, and possesses a peculiarly strong aromatic odor.

In the line of drapery fabrics for the decoration of walls, door and window hangings, etc., Indian fabrics are of great variety in silks and cottons. The brocades or kinkabs of Benares, Surat and Ahmedabad, have been known for centuries for their excellence, and are manufactured into articles of household use and adornment such as piano covers, chair backs, fans, etc., for all of which there is a large demand. The half cotton and half silk stuffs are due to the Mohammedans, who are prevented by their religious doctrines from using articles purely silk, and the Mashroo and Amroo stuffs exhibited are proofs of the excellence of design and quality of Hindoo weaves.

In purely cotton stuffs there are exhibited printed cottons, printed portières, dados, stripes and table covers in a large variety of designs, from all parts of India. The wax printed cloths with a pattern decorated with finely powdered mica, are immensely attractive in appearance, and would impart great decorative effect to an apartment. In addition to these there are the tinsel and glass decorated stuffs of Poona and Satara, which will form most suitable and effective draperies. Embroideries are also shown in all varieties, from the coarsest cotton to the finest of silks and velvets, the embroidery in the most expensive kinds being done with real gold and silver threads.

No Indian interior is complete without examples of incrustated metal ware from Tanjore, Cashmere copper ware and brass inlaid ware from the Northwest provinces. These native vessels in Indian households supply the place pottery and glass ware as used by Europeans; hence articles made in brass are more largely used in India than those made in any other material. Large vases, screens and firescreens are decorated with the minutest repousse designs, representing scenes from mythology, the signs of the Zodiac, etc., and candlesticks, paperweights and temple bells in Poona castings, will form interesting curios. Idols and figures in metal, ivory or carved wood,

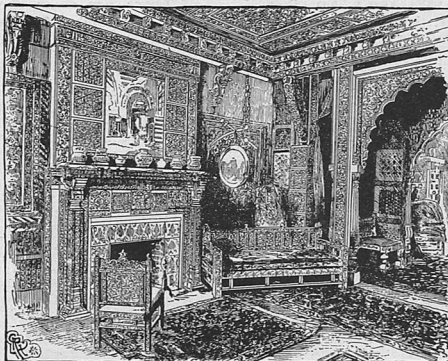
all form characteristic decorations, which on account of their cheapness and attractive appearance, are in great demand for the decoration of cabinets, mantels and interiors generally.

In pottery, the wares of Mooltan, Delhi, Bombay, etc., exhibit true artistic feeling and skilled Indian handiwork in form, color and details of ornament. The work seems to have been produced without premeditation, as if it were the creation of nature rather than of art. The collection in this line is a very extensive one, consisting of specimens from all parts of India. There is a fair collection of old stuffs, antique bronzes, old MSS., and old coins, which are of paramount interest to historians and students, as well as to those who take pleasure in collecting things of this nature.

In short, a Hindoo interior when completely furnished, is in itself a representative collection of all the art industries of India. And even if one does not wish to create an exclusively Hindoo interior. Nearly all of the products exhibited are equally suitable for decorating the ordinary parlor or drawing-room. The lacquer work from Madras woodwares from Cashmere, sandal wood of Vizagapatam, the Mysore inlaid rosewood tables, and the ivory and brass decorated carved furniture of the Punjab, as well as the art work peculiar to the districts of the country, all of which are marvels of intricate skill, and are extremely valuable in giving decorative tone and style to ordinary apartments.

Messrs. A. A. Vantine & Co. of this city, have recently received very extensive importations of artistic productions from India and Burmah, and the amount of new goods received from those countries is so vast that they have been obliged to obtain an additional store, which is known as their India annex, and is located in 28th street, a few doors from Broadway.

The public are to be congratulated on the magnificent opportunity now given them for the cultivation of a taste for art productions of the finest character. When we consider that everything made in India is hand wrought, down to the smallest toys, the articles thus produced are, to a great extent, works of art.



A NEW YORK INTERIOR IN THE HINDOO STYLE.

DECORATIVE NOTES.

HUGE Japanese umbrellas are serviceable for many things, but one seen recently is so peculiarly striking as to deserve especial comment. It hangs from a hook in

the ceiling of a small room in an artist's home, and forms the entire ceiling. Beneath it is the tea table and all its paraphernalia, together with a bamboo settee and five chairs, all set upon a Japanese rug. The tea service is of fine Japanese ware, and the tea itself comes from Japan. The entire room is complete, and one feels on entering that it is a veritable bit of the land of chrysanthemums.

A BOX ottoman may be made of a round wooden box seventeen inches high and six inches wide each way, with lid to take off, and may be used as a seat and to hold small requisites. The inside may be lined with woolen stuff, linen or leather. An embroidered border fourteen inches wide is put on plain around the ottoman and edged below with a frill of cashmere, the color of the groundwork of the border. A somewhat smaller frill trims the lid, which is to be covered inside and out with a strip of canvas drawn together in the middle under a button. The large bows of ribbon which fasten the ring for taking up the lid should be of a color to match or harmonize with the other colors shown in the ottoman.

THE Berkshire Hills are best reached by the New York Central.

CHOICE of three routes to St. Louis by the New York Central.